



Georgia's Towing & Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP)

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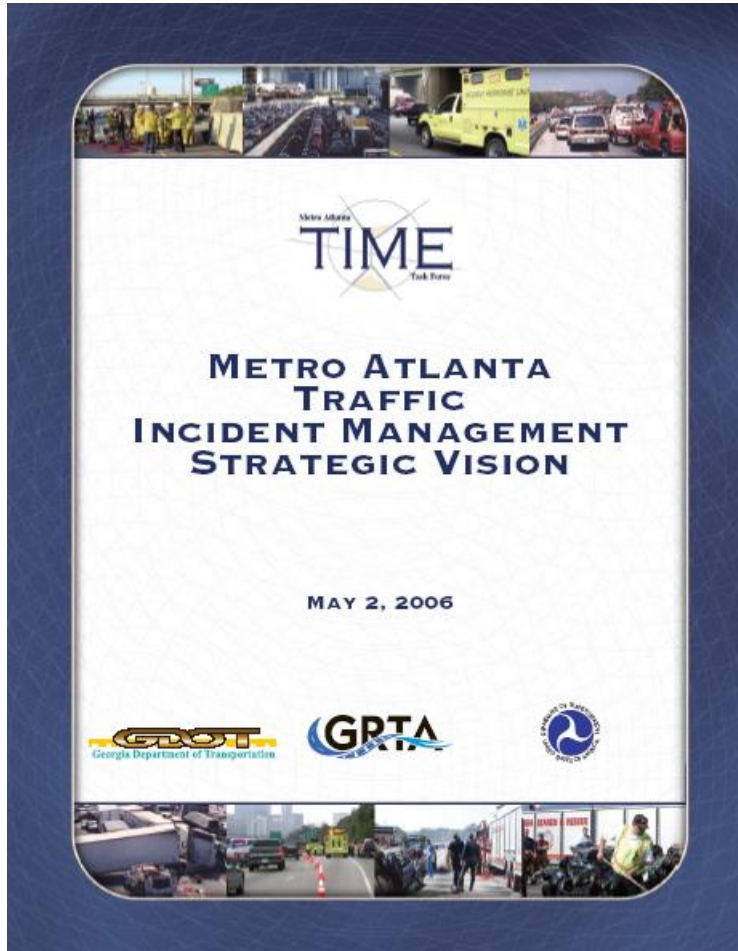


Overview

- What is TRIP?
- Program Overview
- Impact of TRIP
- Program Challenges
- Program Expansion
- Questions?

What is TRIP?

- A quick clearance incentive program to provide select heavy-duty recovery companies a monetary bonus for clearing commercial vehicle crashes within 90 minutes
- An initiative of the Georgia TIME Task Force and a component of the 2006 Metro Atlanta Traffic Incident Management Strategic Vision
- Started January 2008 with 6 TRIP tow companies
- Activated for qualifying major commercial vehicle incidents by state SSP, law enforcement, GDOT Maintenance, or fire department



Program governed by TRIP Specifications and guided by TRIP advisory board with final decision-making authority resting with GDOT



Program Overview

- Goal = 90 minute or less roadway clearance
- Incentives: \$2,500 to \$3,500
- Disincentive: \$600 (exceeds 3 hrs. mark) + \$10 per min. after 3 hrs.
- Timekeepers – SSP/LE/FD/GDOT Maintenance
- Time stamps are reported to GDOT's Transportation Management Center (TMC)
- Consultancy administratively assists, processes invoices, facilitates meetings



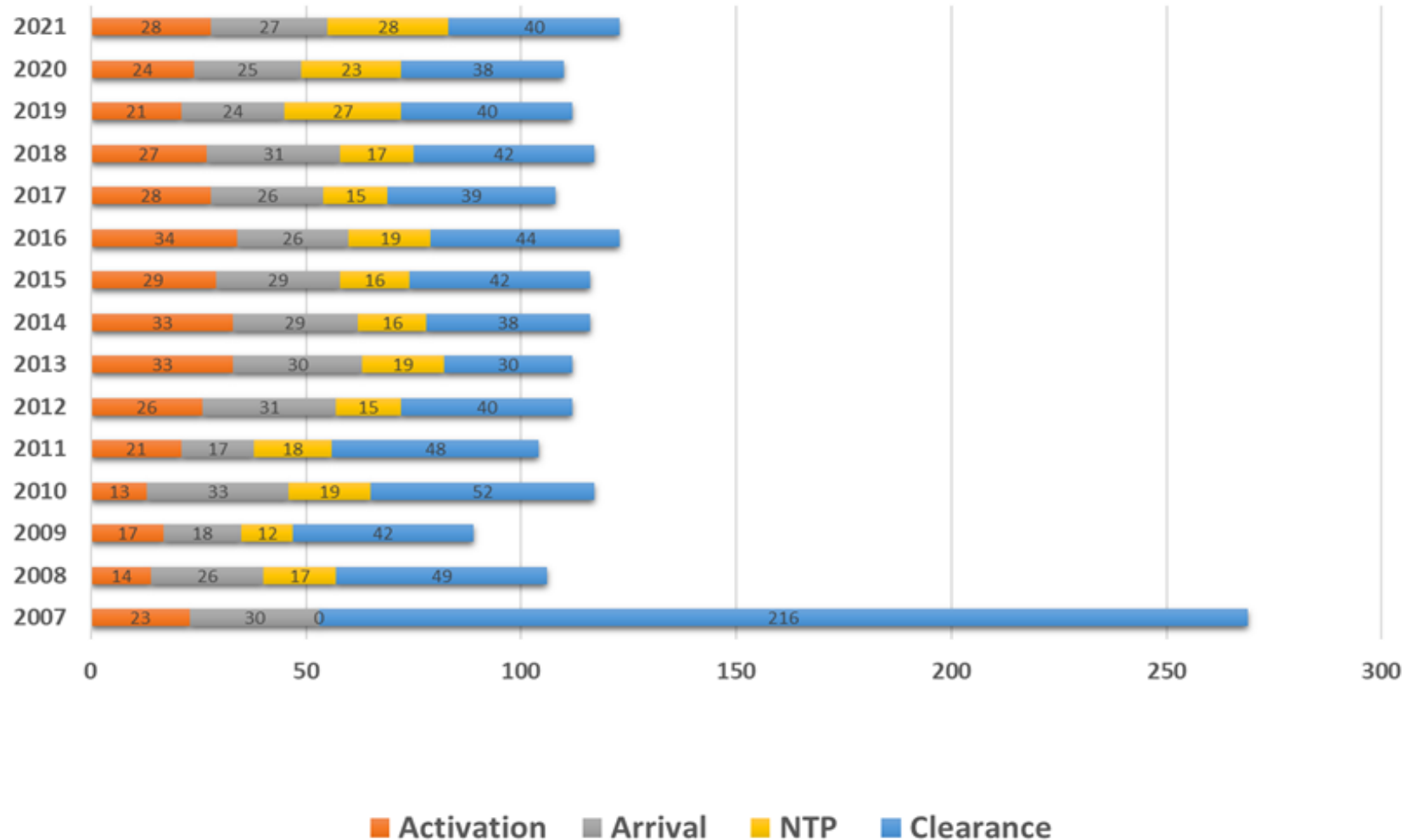
These highly trained and skilled tow companies can bring specialized equipment in addition to heavy duty wreckers



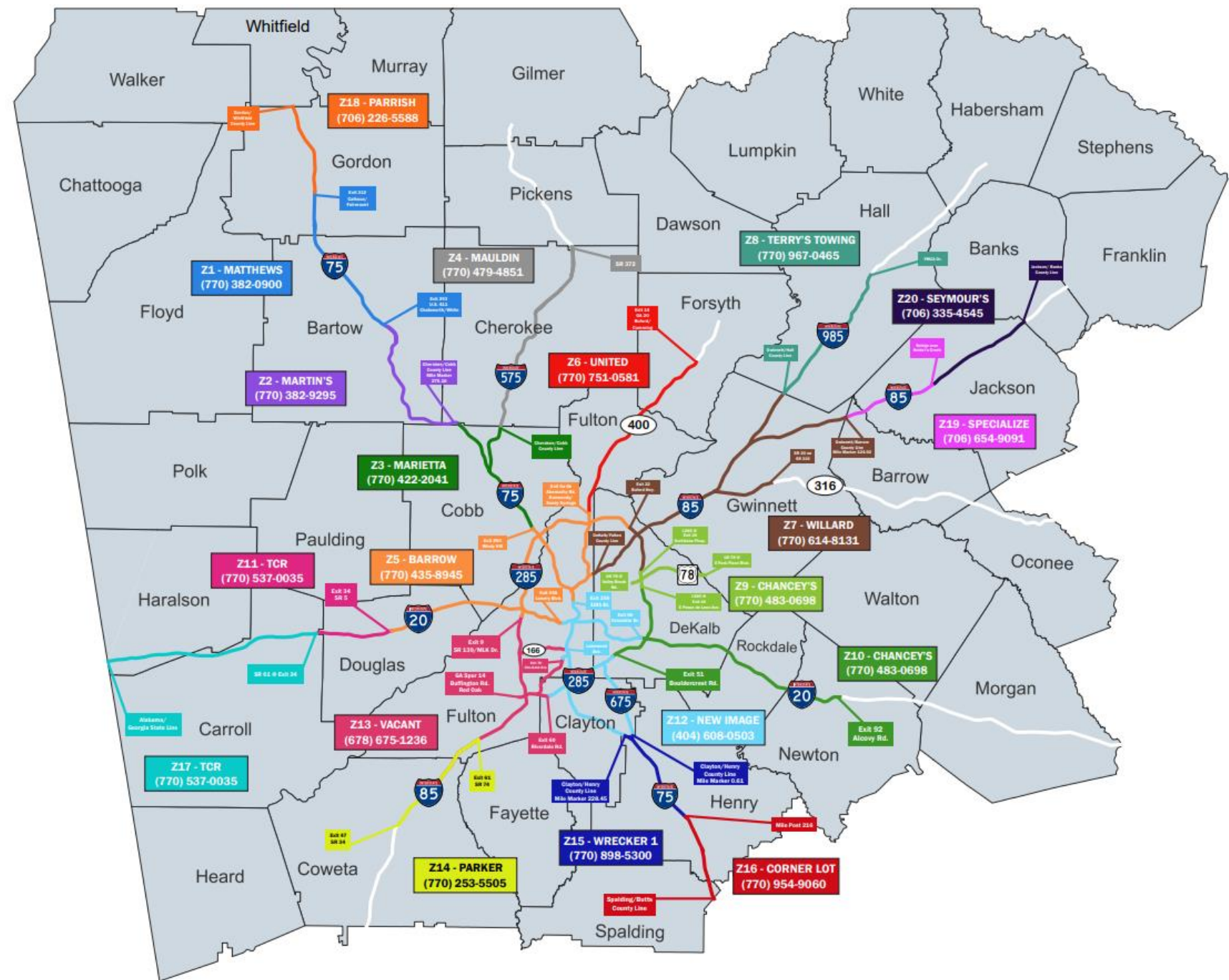
Why TRIP?

- Responder safety
- Motorist safety
- Quick clearance
- Move traffic/commerce
- Nearly a 60% reduction

Time to Roadway Clearance 2007-2021



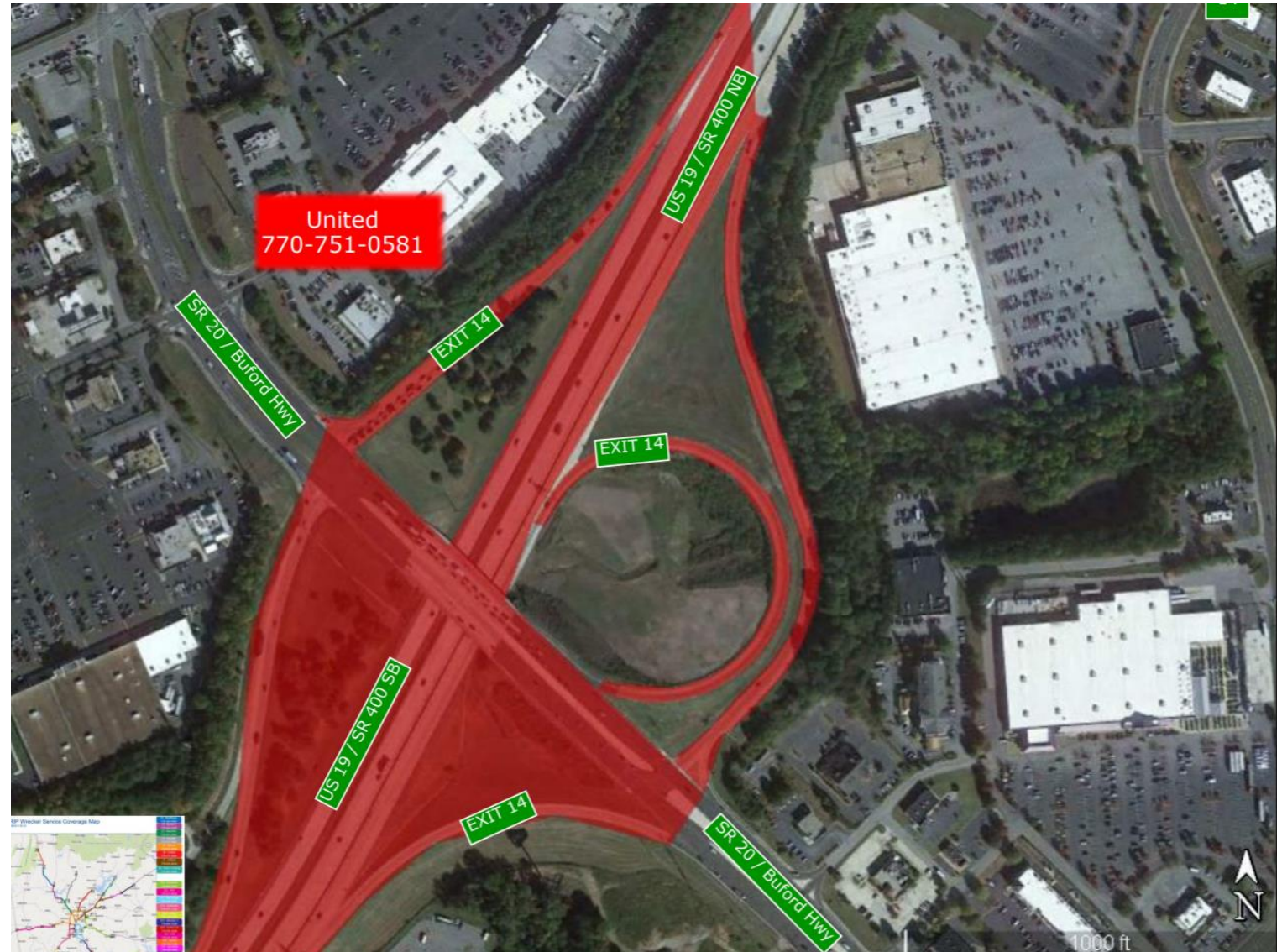
TRIP Covers
over 470
roadway miles
with 20 zones
in
Metropolitan
Atlanta...



...and
approximately
40 miles with
3 zones in
Macon
(activated
8/1/23)



TRIP coverage includes interstate roadway and ramps, over/underpasses, but ends where the ramp meets the surface street



Who can Activate TRIP?

- Safety Service Patrol Operators (HERO & CHAMP)
- Law Enforcement Officers
- GDOT Maintenance Foremen
- Select Fire Departments



TRIP encourages initial responders “IF it can be moved SAFELY... Move it.”

AUTHORITY TOW LAW: GEORGIA CODE 32-6-2

State or local law enforcement officers **and the department are further authorized**, with or without the consent of the owner, **to remove or have removed any obstruction, cargo, or personal property which is abandoned, unattended, or damaged as a result of a vehicle accident which the department determines to be a threat to public health or safety or to mitigate traffic congestion**, and any person or towing service that is removing an obstruction, cargo, or personal property at the location of such obstruction, cargo, or personal property upon instruction by a law enforcement officer, an official of a fire department acting under the authority of paragraph (1) of Code Section 25-3-1 or paragraph (3) of Code Section 25-3-2, or an official of the department **shall be liable only for gross negligence**.(4) It shall be unlawful for any person to park or leave unattended any vehicle for greater than 48 hours.





Response Requirements = 3 Pieces of Equipment on every TRIP Incident

- One 30-ton **AND** one 50-ton recovery wrecker (minimum) as well as a support truck
- All program vehicles are inspected every 2 years by GDOT



APPROVED 2022-2024

APPROVED 2022-2024

GEORGIA
TRIP
TOWING & RECOVERY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
TIME

GEORGIA
TRIP
TOWING & RECOVERY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
TIME

AUTHORIZED
AUTHORIZE **SUPPORT TRUCK**
30-TON

VEHICLE NUMBER 001

VEHICLE NUMBER 004



TRIP stresses the importance of **unified command** at every incident and demands communication, coordination, and cooperation amongst ALL the players.

Unified Command establishes a common set of incident objectives and strategies that all can subscribe to. This is accomplished without losing or giving up agency authority, responsibility or accountability. (FEMA)





TRIP towers must meet strict training guidelines which include annual continuing education hours

Strict safety rules are also enforced with loss of incentive for non-compliance

- Type 3 hi-vis safety apparel
- Full length pants
- No open-toed footwear
- Hard had as required
- Operational safety practices



GDOT TMC Responsibilities



Georgia Travel Info



- Collect as much information about the incident as possible from the caller
- Identify correct TRIP company
- **Notify TRIP company of activation (local 911 does NOT notify the tower)**
- Record time stamps
- Provide TRIP Activator's name to the TRIP tower
- Provide incident information to TRIP tower

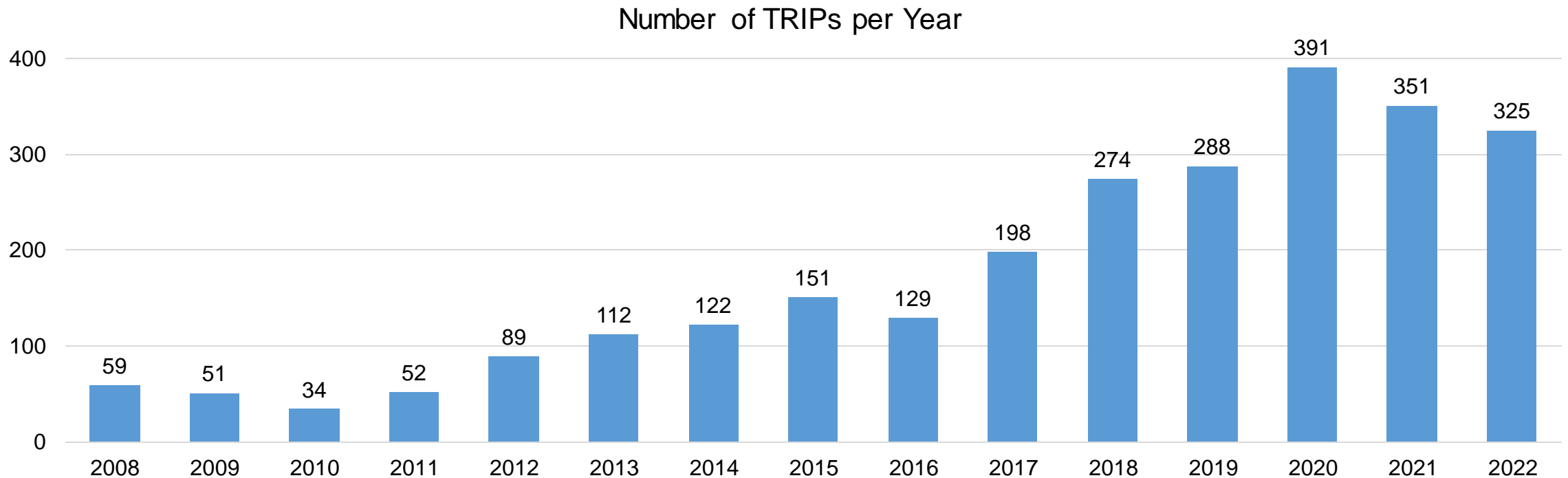


Recovery Zone Application Process

- Zones are recompeteted every two years
- Companies apply online
- Facility and equipment inspections are conducted
- A 3rd party firm scores applicants according to pre-set criteria
- TRIP advisory board reviews recommended companies
- GDOT reviews, makes final determination, and awards zones

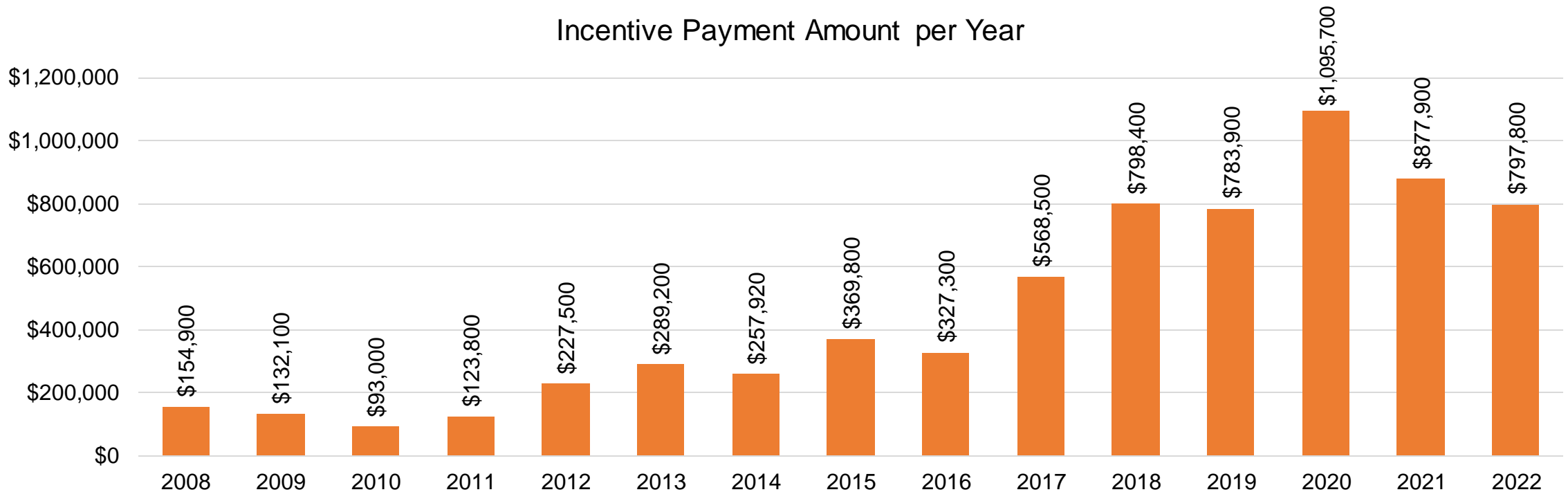
The Impact of TRIP

- From 2008 to 2022, there have been 2,626 TRIP events
- With an average Wrecker Roadway Clearance time of 35 minutes, vehicles can reach their destinations more quickly and with reduced congestion



The Impact of TRIP (cont.)

- From 2008 to 2022, the 2,626 TRIP events have provided an incentive payment of \$6,598,000
- The value gained from alleviating congestion greatly surpasses the program's cost





Program Challenges

1. Regional political influences and buy-in
2. Training of responders authorized to activate TRIP
 - Keeping up with attrition of trained SSP, police, fire, GDOT staff, etc.
3. Communication errors during activation process
 - Incorrect location
 - Failure to provide all pertinent details
4. Attempts to “influence” TRIP activation
 - Penalties apply if concern is validated
5. Unified command and on-scene non-cooperation concerns
 - Rare, but must be addressed



Program Expansion

GDOT is assessing and monitoring feasibility of additional expansion:

- I-59/I-24 corridor in Dade County
- Laurens [I-16] and Houston [I-75] Counties
- Columbus
- I-75 to Tennessee line
- I-85 south of exit 47
- I-85 north to South Carolina state line

Any Questions..?

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